



E-Update from **Assemblymember** **MARK DESAULNIER**



A Message from Assemblymember Mark DeSaulnier

Dear Friends,

I am so honored to be serving as your representative in the California State Assembly. As you might imagine, my initiation into the California State Legislature has been a whirlwind of activity: being sworn in, setting up both my district and capitol offices, hiring new staff, and preparing for my first legislative session. As hectic as it has been, it has also been a tremendous experience.

Now that things have settled down a bit, I wanted to take this opportunity to share with you some of the things I have been working on. This is the first of a series of regular e-mail updates I will be sending you in an effort to keep you informed about not only my activities in Sacramento, but here in the district as well.

In this update you will find information on my legislative agenda, committee assignments and recent activities I have participated in.

Future editions will update you on town hall meetings I plan to hold on senior issues, emergency preparedness and the environment later this year, as well as a Women's Health Forum in the fall. I will also be co-sponsoring a Children's Health and Fitness Fair with Senator Tom Torlakson on August 4th at Small World Park in Pittsburg. We will be providing free health screenings and safety information, as well as fun activities for the kids. Small World Park is a great place and everyone will be admitted free of charge.

Of special note, I recently sponsored two Town Halls devoted exclusively to transportation in Contra Costa County. Representatives of the Cities of Antioch and Hercules, the Metropolitan Transportation Commission, the Contra Costa Transportation Authority, BART, Tri-Delta Transit and the Western Contra Costa Transit Authority were able to provide important information about local highway improvements, the fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel, proposed ferry service, BART, e-BART and other transportation news to those in attendance.

I hope that you will find my e-newsletter informative. In the meantime, should you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me either in Sacramento at (916) 319-2011, or my District Office at (925) 372-7990.

Regards,

SAVE THE DATE!

August 4th
10 am to 2 pm

2007
Back to School
Children's
Health & Fitness
Fair

Small World Park
2551 Harbor Street
Pittsburg

For Additional Information:
(925) 372-7990

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Assembly Speaker Fabian Nunez and Assemblymember Mark DeSaulnier present AD11 Woman of the Year Nancy Parent with a State Proclamation on the Assembly Floor.

Nancy Parent

Assembly District 11 Woman of the Year

Assemblymember DeSaulnier was pleased to honor Nancy Parent as Woman of the Year for Assembly District 11.

“Nancy has done so many great things as both a public servant and a private citizen,” Assemblymember DeSaulnier said. “I felt it important to honor her service that has, in turn, inspired so many others to participate in philanthropy as well.”

The first woman to be elected councilmember and mayor of the City of Pittsburg, Nancy Parent has played an active role in many community causes. Councilmember Parent helped found “Delta 2000”, an education coalition in East Contra Costa County, in 1989. She has also been an active member of the Soroptimist International of Pittsburg for over 25 years.

“For Nancy’s dedication to improving the lives of those who call East County their home, it is my privilege to present her this commendation with sincere gratitude,” DeSaulnier concluded.

The California Legislature created the award in 1987 as a way to celebrate Women’s History Month. One woman from each Assembly and Senate District in the state is officially honored with the title during a ceremony held in Sacramento each year.

Contra Costa County Transportation

How many of us can remember the days when driving to work was a breeze? Arriving late for work because of traffic was unimaginable. Times have changed. Our communities have grown, and our infrastructure problems have grown with them.

If there is one thing we can all agree on it is that no one likes sitting in traffic. For the people of Contra Costa County, the recent down payment from the nearly \$20 billion transportation infrastructure bond (approved by voters in November as Proposition 1B) is more than just an historic beginning to ending our traffic woes; it marks a satisfying conclusion to the long struggle to fully fund a fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel and the widening of Highway 4 through Antioch.

During my nearly 20 years I have served Contra Costa, we have made the interconnected issues of transportation, land use and air quality among the region’s



top policy priorities. So I am relieved that the Caldecott Tunnel and Highway 4 are at long last fully funded, and I am proud to have helped steer these vital projects through the bureaucratic maze.

The fourth bore of the Caldecott Tunnel has been in the works for years, dating back to 1999 when the fourth bore was first recommended as one of several long-term solutions for decreasing congestion. The County has generated funds over the

years, through Measure J and other plans, but it just has not been enough.

It’s easy to see that our transportation system is overcrowded, underfinanced and, quite literally, falling apart.

The funds we just received will not solve the state’s mobility woes. But it’s a solid down payment and marks a clear step in the right direction after decades of neglect. Every one involved in making this happen should be very proud of their effort. We worked as a team – the public, elected officials, business, labor, and environmental leaders – to present a united front and it paid off.

As a member of the Assembly Committees on Transportation and Appropriations, I will continue to fight for Contra Costa and particularly East County’s long-overdue transit extension. With patience, persistence and a continuing commitment to new investment, we can solve plenty of transportation puzzles – and protect our quality of life and economic well being while we’re at it.

Legislative Update

I think it is important to give you an update on some of the legislation I have been working on. From the environment to housing and from violence prevention to disability rights, there are many issues I have been addressing this year. I would like to explain a few of these bills and how they may impact you and your community.

AB 1275 would increase the effectiveness of domestic violence prevention and intervention efforts throughout the state by authorizing any county to impose a fee of up to \$4 on certified copies of marriage licenses, birth and death certificates. This will help us to hold batterers more accountable earlier in the cycle of violence and link more victims, children and the elderly to needed services sooner by focusing on misdemeanor offenses.

AB 1323 would allow for newer technologies to be used in the screening for tuberculosis, as well as allow for not yet developed screening technologies to be used as they evolve. AB 1323 would strike the current language in California statutes requiring the use of only the Mantoux tuberculin skin test for TB screening and testing. It would replace the text allowing for any TB screening test that has been approved by the FDA and endorsed by the CDC. This change in language would allow the use of the superior tuberculin skin test and any new and approved diagnostic test for TB infection. Current TB screening laws and procedures are outdated and need to be revised so that newer more effective modes of screening can be utilized.

AB 1467 would clarify the definition of a tobacco retailer so that code enforcement officials have an easier time regulating tobacco shops. Most workplaces in California became smoke-free with the implementation of Assembly Bill 13 in 1994. Although groundbreaking at the time, there are several loopholes that need to be closed. The California Air Resources Board recently declared environmental

tobacco smoke as a toxic air contaminant, but many workers are still exposed to these toxins.

AB 1467 would eliminate the exemption whereby workers are subjected to second-hand smoke if they work in a large warehouse. It would also do away with the limited exemption whereby small hotels can allow smoking in their lobbies and where smoking is allowed in private meeting and banquet rooms.

Each of these bills has passed off the Assembly Floor, and are now before the Senate for consideration.

There are more than a dozen other bills I have introduced; each of them with an important goal. Should you like to learn more about my legislative portfolio, please visit my Assembly website at:

<http://democrats.assembly.ca.gov/members/a11/>

"There Ought To Be A Law"

Early this year, Assemblymember DeSaulnier sponsored a contest, "There Ought To Be A Law", for constituents of the 11th Assembly District. The competition invited residents to submit ideas for new state legislation. Assemblymember DeSaulnier introduced Assembly Bill 1531 in February 2007 after selecting a winner for his contest.

AB 1531 would increase fines for those who repeatedly use disabled parking spaces unlawfully, require that the minimum fine be posted at the parking space and limit the number of times that a temporary disabled parking placard could be issued. Helping physically and developmentally disabled individuals, including veterans returning from service, in their pursuit of greater mobility is the purpose of AB 1531.

The bill, submitted by Alisa Rosillo of Concord, was among many diverse entries submitted for the contest. Ms. Rosillo, the mother of two children with disabilities, faces a real problem finding adequate parking on outings with her children. Most people don't have to worry about parking when taking their kids to the supermarket, playground or library. When a child has health concerns that require the use of a lift, finding disabled parking often becomes a great challenge. Ms. Rosillo testified before the Assembly Transportation Committee advocating passage of the bill. The bill passed the Assembly and is now being considered by the Senate.

The "There Oughta Be a Law" contest was created by Senator Joe Simitian in 2001. Since its inception, 10 ideas from constituents have been signed into law. Other legislators have implemented similar programs. The bills represent an eclectic mix of public concerns - consumer privacy, highway safety, and reducing the red tape of government bureaucracies.

Assemblymember DeSaulnier will be sponsoring another "There Ought To Be a Law" contest in the fall of 2007. Look for additional information in upcoming newsletters.

Committee Assignments

Assemblymember DeSaulnier serves on the following Assembly Committees:

- Appropriations
- Human Services
- Rules
- Labor & Employment
- Transportation

In addition to the standing committees listed above, he has also been appointed to:

- Select Committee on Youth Violence Prevention
- Select Committee on Growth Management

Out and about in the District.....



Assemblymember DeSaulnier presents certificates to awardees at Contra Costa County's Cesar Chavez Celebration.

Assemblymember DeSaulnier reads "Dr. Seuss" to students at Monte Gardens Elementary School in Concord on "Read Across America" Day.



Contact us at.....

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